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ADAMS

P A P E R S
OF THE
AMERICAN
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. III. No. 2

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

IN
WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 26-28, 1888

BY
HERBERT B. ADAMS

Secretary of the Association

NEW YORK & LONDON
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

The Knickerbocker Press

1889

PRICE ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS

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Organized at Saratoga, N. Y., September 10, 1884.

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II.—Its object shall be the promotion of historical studies.

III.—Any person approved by the Executive Council may become a member by paying three dollars; and after the first year may continue a member by paying an annual fee of three dollars. On payment of fifty dollars, any person may become a life-member exempt from fees. Persons not residents in the United States may be elected as honorary members, and shall be exempt from the payment of fees.

IV.—The officers shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Council consisting of the foregoing officers and of four other members elected by the Association, with the Ex-Presidents of the Association. These officers, except the Ex-Presidents, shall be elected by ballot at each regular annual meeting of the Association.

V.—The Executive Council shall have charge of the general interests of the Association, including the election of members, the calling of meetings, the selection of papers to be read, and the determination of what papers shall be published.

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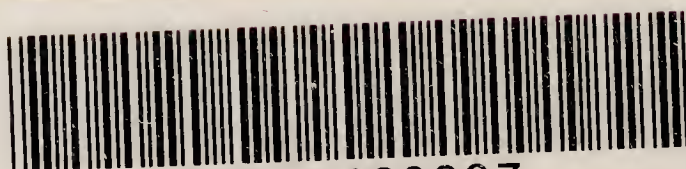
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Volume 1
for the
and Unpublished
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Press of
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New York

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS AT THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING,

WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 26-28, 1888.

DURING the Christmas holidays the American Historical Association held its fifth annual reunion. The Federal City was the place chosen for the Convention. The attendance was the largest in the five years' history of the Association, for the number considerably exceeded that registered in Boston and Cambridge in the month of May, 1887, when both the Historical and Economic Associations assembled at the same head-quarters. Experience has demonstrated that these two organized bodies are now so large and so well-supported that they can no longer profitably convene at the same time and in the same city. Each is strong enough to go alone. On the very days when the Historical Association met in Washington the Economic Association was holding highly successful meetings in Philadelphia.

Among the members of the American Historical Association present at the Washington meeting were the Hon. George F. Hoar, Senator from Massachusetts, and James Phelan, member of the House of Representatives from Tennessee, and author of the new history of that State. These gentlemen are deserving of special honor by the Associa-

tion for their efficient service in securing the passage through Congress of the charter of the Association. Other members of Congress and many persons connected with departments of the General Government were present at various meetings of the Association. Numerous members resident in Washington were in attendance, notably the Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, who took part in one of the discussions; Hon Horatio King, John D. King, William C. Rives, Rear-Admiral Jenkins, General R. D. Mussey, Capt. George M. Wheeler; Dr. J. M. Toner, of the Congressional Library; Dr. George B. Loring, who discussed one of the papers; Dr. G. Brown Goode, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to whose courtesy and coöperation the success of our meetings in the National Museum is largely due; A. Howard Clark, of the Museum; Frederic A. Bancroft, the Librarian of the State Department, who showed our visiting members polite attention. Most appreciative of the kindness of Washington librarians was a little party composed of Douglas Brymner, the distinguished archivist from Ottawa; Ernest Cruikshank, the historian of Province Ontario, who had come to Washington for a prolonged study of American records of the War of 1812; and Mr. B. Fernow, the Keeper of the Archives of the State of New York at Albany; accompanied by a select company of young professors and graduate students from the West and South. Perhaps the rarest opportunity of the entire Convention was this rummaging through the record-offices of Washington by a few men who appreciated the historical attractions of Washington. It may be remarked that our Canadian friends and associates made some important discoveries among our neglected and scattered papers; and that, from the able description of the Canadian Archives by Mr. Brymner, the Dominion Archivist, our American Historical Association learned what scientific order can be brought out of a chaos of state papers by well-directed effort with only moderate government aid.

The educational interests of the country were well represented at the Washington Convention of Historical

Specialists. Present at every meeting were officers of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum, and the Bureau of Education. No less than five college presidents attended the various sessions and three took part in the exercises. To President James C. Welling, of the Columbian University, the Association is under special obligation for his active coöperation and the use of the large lecture-hall of that institution during the three evening sessions. Conspicuous among university representatives by reason of seniority as well as vigorous participation in historical debate was Dr. C. J. Stillé, formerly Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, author of the recent and interesting sketch of Poinsett. President Charles Kendall Adams, of Cornell University, one of the original founders of the Association, was at the Washington meeting elected President for the ensuing year. Among men of like academic distinction were Dr. Merrill Edward Gates, President of Rutgers College, and Lyon G. Tyler, the new President of William and Mary College, now happily revived by the State of Virginia.

There were college professors from New England, New York, the West, and the South. Justin Winsor and John H. Gray, the successor of Mr. Laughlin, represented Harvard University; Dr. J. F. Jameson, the successor of Professor Andrews, came from Brown University, and Professor Ferguson, from Trinity College, Hartford. Among the representatives of New York institutions were Professor Lucy M. Salmon, of Vassar College; Professor W. M. Postlesthwaite, of West Point Military Academy; Dr. Henry M. Baird, of the University of the City of New York; Dr. Philip Schaff, the successor of Dr. Roswell D. Hitchcock, of Union Theological Seminary, and the founder of the new Society of Church History, which met in Washington at the same time as did the American Historical Association; Mr. Edward G. Bourne, formerly instructor at Yale University and lately appointed Professor of History in Adelbert College, Cleveland; George W. Knight, of the State University of Ohio; J. A. Woodburn, of Indiana

State University ; J. D. Crawford, of the University of Illinois ; Robert D. Sheppard, of the Northwestern University at Evanston ; R. Hudson and A. C. McLaughlin, who together direct the historical department in the University of Michigan ; Frederic J. Turner, the associate of Professor William F. Allen in the University of Wisconsin ; Allen C. Thomas, of Haverford College, near Philadelphia ; William Hyde Appleton and G. E. H. Weaver, two Harvard men now at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania ; James W. Garnett, of the University of Virginia ; R. B. Smithey, of Randolph-Macon College ; and William P. Trent, formerly of the Johns Hopkins, now Professor of History in the University of the South.

The Western and Southern reach of academic representation, as shown in the above list, is not without interest to an observing reader, nor yet wholly insignificant are the following local, corporate, and State connections. The time is coming when the American Historical Association will have its delegates from State and county and town societies. From Richmond came the Hon. William Wirt Henry, now second Vice-President of the American Historical Association, together with various representatives of the New South, including Dr. A. D. Mayo, the Apostle of Education. From New York came the Hon. John Jay, President of the Huguenot Society of America and now first Vice-President of the Association. New York was further represented by the Hon. Charles A. Peabody, Gen. James Grant Wilson, C. W. Bowen, William E. D. Stokes, Samuel M. Jackson, E. W. Fisher ; C. H. C. Howard, of the Astor Library ; Dr. M. M. Bagg, of the Oneida Historical Society at Utica ; and Willard C. Fisher, Fellow of Cornell University. From Boston came James Schouler, the distinguished historian ; from old Braintree, the Headmaster of Thayer Academy, J. B. Sewall. Providence and the Rhode Island Historical Society were represented not only by Professor Jameson, but also by William E. Foster, of the Providence Public Library. From Worcester came Nathaniel Paine, a member of the American Antiquarian

Society. Guilford, Conn., had a voluntary delegate in the Rev. Dr. William M. Andrews, and Berkeley Divinity School had a representative in Charles N. Morris, a graduate of Yale. From Philadelphia came Dr. Stillé and Henry Phillips, Jr., Secretary of the American Philosophical Society. From Baltimore came Henry Stockbridge, member of the Maryland Historical Society, and various graduate students from the Johns Hopkins University. Turning again westward, we meet Dr. E. M. Avery and James F. Rhodes, both of Cleveland; Dr. W. F. Poole and Daniel Goodwin, both of Chicago.

The Convention opened Wednesday evening, December 26th, at eight o'clock, in the large and attractive lecture-room of the Columbian University, corner of H and Fifteenth Streets. Dr. William F. Poole, director of the new and richly endowed Newberry Library, of Chicago, who has made various important contributions to the history of the Northwest, was chosen President of the Association at the close of the Boston meeting, in view of the coming centenary of the settlement of the region beyond the Ohio. Although the place of meeting was afterward changed from Columbus to Washington, a good place in the programme was reserved for papers relating to the Northwest. Dr. Poole's inaugural address was naturally devoted to the historical interests of that section of country. He made his large and appreciative audience realize that the history of the United States is not confined to the Atlantic seaboard; that there is an ever-expanding horizon of interest in the institutional, economic, and social history of the great West. He reviewed many of the critical questions concerning the original discovery and settlement of that country, now the basis of our republican empire. Most interesting was his able reconsideration of the long-vexed question of the origin of the famous Ordinance of 1787 for the government of the Northwest Territory. It was shown that not one man but many men, not one set of circumstances but a combination of Northern and Southern interests worked together for that grand political result called the Ordinance

of 1787. Without withdrawing from his earlier position regarding the personal influence of Dr. Cutler in illuminating the Bill with noble provisions for education and free soil, and in securing its passage by Congress, Dr. Poole reviewed the whole question in a truly national spirit, worthy of the Association over which he presided. Following the inaugural address were two short communications regarding certain noteworthy historical works now in process of publication. General James Grant Wilson spoke of the methods pursued in editing the "Cyclopædia of American Biography," now approaching completion. Dr. A. G. Warner briefly described a work on "Local Constitutional History," prepared by his colleague in the University of Nebraska, Professor George E. Howard, an historical pioneer in the far Northwest. The existence of a flourishing school of history and politics in that far-off region, as well as in every one of the States of the old Northwest Territory, is an accomplished fact.

Thursday was a field-day for Northwestern history. The Association met at 10.30 A.M. in the spacious lecture-room of the National Museum, to which the Association had been invited by the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. The first paper of the morning session was by A. C. McLaughlin, Assistant Professor in the University of Michigan, upon "The Influence of Governor Cass upon the Development of the Northwest." It is understood that the historical importance of this subject was suggested by Judge Cooley, of Ann Arbor. Lewis Cass, the Governor of Michigan Territory, for a long period had under his control the Indian posts of the Northwest, and he may be said to have shaped the Indian policy of the United States Government. Professor McLaughlin showed, in a clear and suggestive manner, the masterly diplomacy of Cass in his dealings with the British Government, our great rival for colonial influence in the ever-expanding Northwest Territory. The paper was ably discussed by President C. K. Adams, formerly Professor of History in the University of Michigan. In the original work of its still flourishing and

still growing historical department he evidently took the liveliest interest, as did the whole audience; for Mr. McLaughlin had an interesting subject and a well-written paper, which he read in an agreeable manner. In fact, all the communications made at this Thursday morning session were remarkable well presented, an unusual phenomenon in scientific conventions or learned bodies. There was only one other session which at all rivalled the one under consideration, and that was on Friday evening, the last and most successful session from a public point of view.

The second paper, Thursday morning, was by Professor William F. Allen, of the University of Wisconsin, and it was read by his former pupil and historical associate, Frederick J. Turner. The subject was "The Place of the Northwest in General History." Professor Allen pictured the European background in the great historic drama called "The Westward March of Empire." He called attention to the fact that, three hundred years ago, Spain had a strong grip upon North America. Twenty years later France and England were planting rival colonies. The defeat of the French power in Canada relieved English colonies from Northern pressure, and prepared the way for the American Revolution. The paper further showed that the imperial destiny of the United States hung upon the possession of the Northwest. But for the military success of George Rogers Clark and the diplomatic skill of the American commissioners in successfully negotiating for this very territory, American nationality would have had no free scope; the Mississippi Valley would, perhaps, never have been rescued; the Louisiana Purchase would possibly never have been made. The first territorial advance gave confidence and courage for that march across the continent which really constitutes America. The development of our national policy is inseparably connected with the Ordinance of 1787 for organizing and governing the Northwest Territory. Our entire territorial system, our national idea of republican expansion in free, self-governing States, our national guaranties of free soil, civil and religious liberty,

and the education of the people, are all the historical outgrowth of the *Magna Charta* of the great Northwest.

The next paper was upon the subject of "The History of Higher Education in the Northwest." It was prepared and read by Professor George W. Knight, a graduate of the historical school founded by Andrew D. White and C. K. Adams, in the University of Michigan. Dr. Knight is now professor in the Ohio State University, and is the author of a valuable monograph on "The History and Management of Federal Land Grants for Education in the Northwest Territory," published in the first volume of the "Papers of the American Historical Association." Upon the basis of this original work Dr. Knight is now constructing a "History of Higher Education in the States of Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan," a work which will ultimately be published by the United States Bureau of Education. His brief contribution showed that the Congressional policy of aiding higher education began historically in the Northwest Territory. Although it was not the original intention of Congress to found State universities, such institutions are the natural outgrowth of State aid, which must concentrate or dissipate its energies. In the educational history of the West, the fittest ideas will survive. The Universities of Michigan and Wisconsin are leading the way to the highest education in the Northwest.

Thursday morning's session closed with an interesting talk from Major J. W. Powell, Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the practical leader in recent organized inquiries, under government authority, concerning the languages, institutions, manners, and customs of the North American Indians. There in the great National Museum, itself a splendid monument of the work already accomplished for American history and archæology by congressional support, there in that spacious lecture-hall, surrounded by the now priceless Catlin Collection of Indian portraits, the one-armed Major eloquently discoursed upon "A Language Map of North America," representing in a pictorial way the historical results of many years of systematic study

of the native Indian tribes and nations. He said that language had at last been recognized as the best historical basis for tracing the affinities of North American Indians. There are no less than seventy-three distinct linguistic stocks, with innumerable dialectic variations. Major Powell described the remarkable character and perfection of these Indian languages from a grammatical point of view, and greatly amused his audience by showing that the tendency of the languages of civilized man was toward the gradual extinction of grammar. This view led him to satirize modern Volapük, an aggregation of all sorts of grammar, as a literary monstrosity, reminding one of a universal animal with all possible organs of a specialized nature, hoofs, hands, claws, wings, web-feet ridiculously jumbled together.

Thursday afternoon, from four to seven o'clock, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Horatio King, members of the Association and the ladies accompanying them attended a "tea," given in their honor at No. 707 H Street. Many of the scientific people of Washington and a few other representatives of Washington society were present to meet the Association. The occasion proved highly enjoyable to our visiting guests, thanks to the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. King and the friendly disposition of Washington people.

The evening session on Thursday was called to order promptly at eight o'clock by President Poole, in the lecture-hall of the Columbian University. The first paper of the evening was by Professor J. F. Jameson, of Brown University. His subject was, "The Old Federal Court of Appeal." He said it was well to remember that the United States had a federal judiciary before 1789, although with narrow scope. The Old Federal Court was formed to hear appeals from State courts in prize cases. George Washington made the first suggestion of a federal prize court. From 1776 to 1780 Congress heard prize appeals by means of committees. Their adherence to this plan was attributed by the speaker partly to the influence of the English plan familiar to the colonists, by which prize appeals were heard by a committee of the privy council.

The complications arising out of the case of the sloop "Active," which embroiled the Federal Government with Pennsylvania, and showed the weakness of the former, led to the establishment of a permanent Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture. Its organization and procedure were described by Professor Jameson. Its last meeting occurred in May, 1787. One hundred and eighteen cases came before the court and the committee which had preceded it. It no doubt had an educative influence in bringing the people of the United States to consent to the establishment of a powerful federal judiciary. It may therefore justly be regarded as having been not simply the predecessor, but one of the origins of the Supreme Court of the United States. Professor Jameson's valuable paper was briefly discussed by the Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis, who has lately published a short monograph upon the same subject, although treating it in a somewhat different way. Each of these scholars had approached his theme without any knowledge of the other's work, and each spoke in the most appreciative language of the other's service to historical science. The two papers are alike contributions to an important but hitherto obscure subject.

The next paper was one of the most suggestive of all those that were presented at the Washington meeting. It was upon the subject of "The Canadian Archives," and was read by the Dominion Archivist, Mr. Douglas Brymner, of Ottawa, the practical significance of whose work has been already mentioned in another connection. Mr. Brymner said there was no systematic arrangement of Canadian Archives before the year 1872, when a petition was presented to the three branches of Parliament praying that steps should be taken for the collection of materials relating to the history of the country. The duty of accomplishing the objects of the petition was assigned to the Minister of Agriculture, who is also Minister of Arts and Statistics. Mr. Brymner was appointed to organize the work. In June, 1872, he was furnished with three empty rooms and "very vague instructions." Mr. Brymner then proceeded

to a preliminary examination of the military correspondence preserved at Halifax, and the historical materials to be found in the capitals of the various provinces. In 1873 he went to London and visited the various government offices, the British Museum, and every place where Canadian documents could possibly be discovered. In the British Museum he found the now famous Haldimand Collection and the Bouquet Collection. General Haldimand was Governor of Canada during the American Revolutionary War, and the collection which bears his name relates to the events connected with his official career. The other collection relates to the military operations of Bouquet. The information contained in the Haldimand Collection covers an immense extent of territory. The mass of correspondence fills no less than 232 volumes. Before leaving London, Mr. Brymner made arrangements for copying all the documents contained in the two collections. He persuaded the authorities at the War Office to permit the transfer of the military correspondence from Halifax to Ottawa. No less than eight tons of documents were thus rescued, for it was the intention of the British Government soon to ship the whole mass to England. Mr. Brymner described the tremendous task of classifying and arranging all these hitherto scattered papers, which have been found to number no less than 400,000 titles. He adopted, as did Jared Sparks in all his documentary collections, a strictly chronological order. Knowing that the work of indexing must proceed slowly, he grouped his materials by great subjects. After proper classification and arrangement, the documents were bound. Of the details of Mr. Brymner's work in matters of indexing, calendaring, etc., it is not possible to speak in this connection. Suffice it to say that he set before the American Historical Association and the archivists of Washington a high standard of official duty and a high ideal for his own future work. He said in conclusion: "My ambition aims at the establishment of a great storehouse of the history of the Colonies and Colonists in their political, ecclesiastical, industrial, domestic, in a word, in every aspect of their lives as communities."

The concluding paper of the Thursday evening session was by President James C. Welling, of Columbian University, upon "The States'-Rights Conflict over the Public Lands." He showed that this conflict began in colonial and revolutionary times, and that it imperilled the formation and ratification of the Constitution. Instead of being settled by the Federal Convention in 1787, the conflict was simply handed on from the undefined jurisdiction of the old Continental Congress to the ill-defined jurisdiction of the federal Constitution. The struggle has perpetually re-emerged in the history of the United States down to the time of our late Civil War. The conflict has always been between two classes of States for the possession of public land as the pledge and symbol of political preponderance in the administration of the Federal Government.

The last morning session of the Association was held at the National Museum. The first communication was a valuable essay in American economic history, upon our "Trade Relations before the Year 1789," by Willard Clark Fisher, Fellow in Cornell University. While not intended as a practical solution to the present tariff question, the paper clearly showed that our national tariff system is deeply rooted in American colonial history. Mr. Fisher reviewed the commercial regulations of the different colonial governments, and showed that the first important step towards a continental system of duties was taken in the import resolutions of 1781 and 1783. Mr. Charles N. Morris, a Yale graduate now in the Berkeley Divinity School, then presented a "History of Internal Improvements in Ohio," with an interesting diagram showing the economic effects of the policy. He showed the influence of the Erie Canal in stimulating the State policies of internal improvements in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and other States further to the westward. The public works of Ohio, notably the canals, were failures from a business point of view. The profits arising were insufficient to pay the interest on the debt incurred. Ohio public works stimulated speculative enterprises and the reckless

construction of turnpikes and railroads. The so-called "loan law" of 1837, by which the State lent credit to private companies upon very loose principles, led to a plundering of the public treasury and to many economic disasters.

The principal paper of this session and one of the most important, from a public point of view, in the entire convention, was on "The Uses and Limitations of Historical Museums," by Dr. G. Brown Goode, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Museum and for a long time practical director of the National Museum. The lecture-hall, which on the first day of the convention was beautifully decorated with framed engravings and etchings (just received from the Exposition at Cincinnati and tastefully arranged in alcoves along the sides of the room), now presented additional attractions to the delighted gaze of members of the Historical Association as they entered and looked about. Many of the upright cases containing American historical relics had been brought into the lecture-hall, and a large collection of historical portraits, grouped in swinging frames around upright shafts, greeted the eye as the audience looked toward the platform and the speaker's place. It seemed as though civilized man was at last finding an honored place in that vast company of savage portraits and Indian relics, which, in the popular fancy at least, have long characterized the National Museum. Before seeing this new historic vista very few among the visiting members in the American Historical Association had any adequate conception of the rapid progress which this same museum has of late years been making in the direction of what might be called historical in contradistinction from prehistoric and purely archæological collections. The idea of the historic evolution of the arts and sciences, the thought of a National Portrait Gallery, arranged by States, is clearly in process of development. Catlin's collection of Indian Portraits will some day have a rival which every visiting citizen and foreign traveller will study with enthusiasm. Prehistoric art in that great Museum has led the way already to historic art. Civilization will soon be illustrated as fully as savagery.

This prelude formed no part of Dr. Goode's paper, but ideas of this sort were in many people's minds, as revealed in subsequent conversations. Dr. Goode said that the historian and naturalist have met upon common ground in the field of anthropology. The anthropologist is in most cases historian as well as naturalist, while the historian of to-day is always in some degree an anthropologist, and makes use of many of the methods of natural science. The museum is no less essential to the study of anthropology than to that of natural history. The library formerly afforded to the historian all necessary opportunities for work. The charter of the American Historical Association indicates that a museum is regarded as one of its legitimate agencies. The museum idea is much broader than it was fifty or even twenty-five years ago. The museum of to-day is no longer a chance assemblage of curiosities, but rather of objects selected with reference to their value to investigators, or their possibilities for public enlightenment. The museum of the future may be made one of the chief agencies of the higher civilization. One source of weakness in all museums is that they have resigned, without a struggle, to the library materials invaluable for the completion of their exhibition-series. Pictures are just as available for museum work as specimens, and it is unwise to allow so many finely illustrated books to be lost to sight and memory on the shelves of the library. Dr. Goode defined a museum as a carefully selected series of labels, each illustrated by a specimen. He thinks the object of a museum is largely educational. By using books, pictures, casts, maps, personal relics for illustrative purposes, the friends of history in America can greatly stimulate popular interest in the development of human culture and modern civilization. In such ways the National Museum is already beginning to illustrate the origin and growth of the arts, for example, music, the highest of all arts. There is a long historic process in the development of every human implement and useful invention. Professor Mason has illustrated some of these processes in the arrangement of collections in

the Museum. The history of the ways and means of transportation, simple as the idea now seems, covers the entire range of man's economic development, from the rude devices of the savage to the modern application of steam and electricity by civilized man. As a practical means of quickening popular interest in the historical side of the National Museum, it was suggested that a National Portrait Gallery be developed in Washington with pictures of early discoverers, colonial founders, pioneers, governors, statesmen, public men grouped when possible by States. Such collections might easily be made by appealing to State pride, to State Historical Societies, local antiquaries, and local members of the American Historical Association. The collection of historical archives, family papers, valuable letters, and historical autographs might also be fostered by the same means. The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution is one of a committee of three appointed by Congress to form what may perhaps be called a Record Commission, or a Commission on Historical Manuscripts already owned by the government.

The closing session was called to order at 8 P.M. in the Columbian University. In the absence of Mr. Henry C. Lea, of Philadelphia, his paper upon "The Martyrdom of San Pedro Arbués" was read by General Wilson. Mr. Lea's paper, which will be printed in full in the proceedings of the Association, was an important contribution to the history of the Inquisition in Spain. In Castile the breaking down of national institutions enabled Ferdinand and Isabella to introduce the Inquisition without opposition, but in Aragon the case was different, and the attempt was delayed until the consent of the Cortes, or Parliament, could be had. This was accomplished in the spring of 1484; Pedro Arbués and Gaspar Juglar were appointed inquisitors, and two *autos-de-fé* were held in May and June. Gaspar Juglar was speedily poisoned, and a strong popular antagonism suspended the proceedings of Arbués. Efforts were vainly made to induce King Ferdinand to change his purpose and all the resources of legal opposition were exhausted. Supported by the

royal power Arbués resumed his functions, and a conspiracy was formed among the *conversos* (Jews baptized through force or fear) to despatch him. In April or May, 1485, an attempt was unsuccessfully made upon his life, and it was not until September 16th that the conspirators wounded him mortally while kneeling in prayer at matins before the altar of the cathedral. The assassination caused an immediate revulsion of popular feeling which enabled Ferdinand to establish firmly the Inquisition in Aragon.

The second paper of the evening was by the Hon. William Wirt Henry, of Richmond, and was entitled "A Reply to Dr. Stillé upon Religious Liberty in Virginia." In the paper he had read before the Association in 1886, Mr. Henry had maintained that Virginia was the first State in the history of the world to embrace in her constitution of government the principle of absolute religious liberty, involving the absolute divorce of church and state. Dr. Stillé in a paper read in 1887 contested this point, on the ground that the Virginia Bill of Rights, in which the principle was embodied, was no part of the Virginia constitution and needed subsequent legislation to enforce it, which was not till 1785, when Jefferson's bill to establish religious liberty was enacted; and further that Pennsylvania before that time had adopted a constitution in which the principle had been more clearly stated. Mr. Henry in replying to Dr. Stillé cited the decisions of the Virginia Court of Appeals to the effect that the Bill of Rights was a part of the constitution, was in force without legislation, and rendered null and void all conflicting acts. He cited also an act of the Virginia Assembly to the same effect, which embodied the statement that Jefferson's bill was but a true exposition of the Bill of Rights. Mr. Henry declared that the Virginia principle, thus implanted in her Bill of Rights, guaranteed civil rights to men of all religious beliefs, to Christians, Jews, pagans, infidels, and atheists; and was a complete divorce of church and state. He then cited the provisions of the Pennsylvania constitutions, and showed that they denied civil rights to atheists and to men who did not believe in future rewards and punishments. He maintained

that the Virginia principle was not antagonistic to Christianity, but was one of the truths taught by its author, and that Christianity, like all truth, has the power of self-preservation, and only asks of civil government to be let alone. Mr. Henry's paper was vigorously discussed by Dr. Stillé, Senator Hoar, and President Poole.

The last paper of the evening was by Clarence W. Bowen, Ph.D., upon "The Inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States." The paper was published in full in *The Century*, April, 1889, at the time of the centenary celebration in New York City, and its report in the present connection is not required. Some of the committees appointed by President Poole on the opening night of the Washington meeting now reported. In behalf of the committee on time and place of next meeting, Judge Charles A. Peabody reported in favor of Washington and the Christmas or Easter holidays, at the further discretion of the committee. Professor Postlethwaite, of West Point, reported resolutions of thanks on the part of the Association to the officers of the Smithsonian Institution and National Museum, to the President and Trustees of the Columbian University, to the President and Board of Governors of the Cosmos Club, and to Mr. and Mrs. Horatio King, for their various courtesies to the Association during its Washington convention. The treasurer's report for the current year shows the present assets of the Association, in good investments and ready money, to be \$3,468.32, not counting the market value of the Association's published "Papers," of which there is a good stock in the Publishers' hands. In behalf of the committee on nominations, Mr. Justin Winsor reported for President of the Association, Dr. Charles Kendall Adams; for First Vice-President, the Hon. John Jay; for Second Vice-President, the Hon. William Wirt Henry; the remaining officers to be continued, with the addition of Professor George P. Fisher to the Executive Council. Into this Historical Areopagus Dr. Poole will now honorably retire as ex-Presidents White, Bancroft, and Winsor have done before him.

In behalf of the committee on the Charter, Mr. Winsor reported the final passage of a satisfactory act of incorporation for the American Historical Association by both Houses of Congress, and the favorable prospect of the signing of the bill by the President immediately after the congressional recess. Mr. Phelan, of Tennessee, who had at last succeeded in getting the act through the House, was then called for and made a facetious speech, recommending the Rules of the House of Representatives as a good subject for original research. Senator Hoar, who closed the Washington meeting in 1886 with a brilliant tribute to Mr. George Bancroft, the retiring President, was now called upon for a speech. He congratulated the Association upon its alliance with the Smithsonian Institution. He said Washington was destined to become the centre of intellectual activity in this country. The great scientific bodies of the United States had already established their headquarters there. It was only natural that the American Historical Association should make Washington the seat of its activity. The future would show that the historian of American institutions must come to Washington, for here are the great collections of the State Department, the Congressional Library, the National Museum, and the vast unexplored treasures of the various Departments of the United States Government. The value of the vast historical treasure-house in this city will increase from year to year, so that, in time, the great American University, in the widest acceptation of that term, will be in the City of Washington. Millions of dollars invested in educational institutions elsewhere will not bring about the same results as a moderate sum invested in Washington.

Senator Hoar further said that American history is the most stimulating history that the world has known. If we are to maintain the republic, a knowledge of its history is absolutely essential to its good government. The importance of teaching the history of the United States to young men cannot be exaggerated. Our young men must be taught that virtue is possible in public men and that it is also possible in nations.

THE EARLY NORTHWEST
INAUGURAL ADDRESS

